

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

SUBJECT:	Taxi and Private Hire Policy and Conditions 2026
DIRECTORATE:	Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
MEETING:	Taxi and Regulatory Committee
Date to be considered:	16th September 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All Wards

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To review Monmouthshire's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Conditions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members note the content of the report and the need to review our existing requirements, policies and conditions of licence in order to comply with Statutory Standards and Welsh Government Guidance.
- 2.2 To approve the consultation process with the licensed trade on the proposed changes during the period 22nd September – 31st October 2025, and agree to a further report being submitted to the Taxi and Regulatory Committee on 9th December 2025 for consideration following consultation. With a view to the proposed policy commencing on 1st January 2026.

KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The current Taxi and Private Hire Policy and Conditions was adopted by Monmouthshire on 1st April 2023. The [Department for Transport \(DfT\) Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards](#) was published in July 2020. The [Dft also published best practice standards for England](#) in November 2023. However, the DfT standards have effect in Wales even though responsibility for taxi and private hire vehicle policy has been devolved to the Welsh Government. Should the Welsh Government introduce legislation to regulate on these matters, the DfT standards would cease to apply. As a result Wales follows the vehicle standards issued by Dft and referral is also made to the best practice standards.
- 3.2 Monmouthshire County Council and all other licensing authorities in the UK will be expected to meet the minimum requirements of the DfT Statutory & Best Practice for taxi and private hire licensing, or explain why they do not.
- 3.3 The Welsh Government published the [Taxi and private hire vehicles guidance](#) in March 2021, which is constantly being updated the most recent being May 2025. The recommendations form the basis for further development by Welsh Government into national standards. Welsh Government within this guidance updated the CCTV policies and looked at overseas criminal record checks for over 18 year olds.
- 3.4 Since the adoption of the current Taxi and Private Hire Policy and Conditions in 2023 the Institute of Licensing has updated the determining factors in [assessing the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney carriage and private hire industry in 2024](#).

- 3.5 Monmouthshire's Policy is subject to a review every 5 years or can be subject to interim reviews should the need arises. Due to changes above, in particular the suitability test in assessing if a person is fit and proper to hold a licence, such an interim review is recommended. The review will increase public safety, consistency of standards across Wales, harmonised enforcement, increased accessibility of vehicles and better standards of customer service. It is recommended the policy be subject to consultation.
- 3.6 A review of the policy was conducted with Licensing Officers of Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Newport and Welsh Government.
- 3.7 The revision of the policy (attached as Appendix A) is highlighted in red, which includes the following:
- The Institute of Licensing guidance on determining the suitability of hackney carriage and private hire applicants and licence holders
 - Overseas criminal record checks
 - Medical changes – Drivers to be able to use those registered with the General Medical Council who has access to NHS Summary Medical Records, with the vision section being able to use an optician/optometrist registered with the General Optical Council.
 - Equality changes as result of the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022.
 - National Register for Revocations and Refusals to now include Suspensions, where appropriate.
 - Changes to roof lights to ensure clarity and safety in recognising a licensed vehicle.
 - An update of the CCTV and Dashcam policy.

4 REASONS

- 4.1 The report highlights the requirement to amend Monmouthshire County Council's existing Taxi and Private Hire Policy and Conditions. These changes form the basis for further development by Welsh Government into national standards.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 All Licensing fees and charges are recovered on a cost recovery basis.

6. WELLBEING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The 'Integrated Impact Assessment Document ' is attached as Appendix B.

7. CONSULTEES:

Newport City Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Welsh Government.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Institute of Licensing Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney carriage and private hire industry 2024](#)

[The Department for Transport "Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance" Authorities in England \(November 2023\)](#)

[The Department for Transport "Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Standards" July 2020](#)

[Welsh Government – "Taxi and private hire vehicles: Licensing Guidance" March 2021](#)

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